GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:720
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2016
Shortage of Drinking Water
Choudhary Col. (Retd) Sona Ram

Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:

a) whether Rajasthan State has been facing serious drinking water problem due to scarcity of water resources;
(b) if so, whether Government of Rajasthan has been requesting the Union Government for awarding Special Category Status to that State for solving drinking water problem of the State and if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government thereon;
(c) whether any request for additional support of Rs. 7275 crore per year for 10 years has been received by the State Government; and
(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken by the Government in this regard and the time by which the funds are likely to be released?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION
(SHRI RAMESH CHANDAPPA JIGAJINAGI)

(a) to (d) Yes Madam. Recently, State of Rajasthan has been facing drinking water scarcity due to drought conditions. Under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), there is no provision of categorizing a state as Separate and special Category State. However, State Government of Rajasthan has been requesting for granting them a Special Category status for solving drinking water problem of the State and providing an additional annual assistance of Rs. 7275 crores for next 10 years. State Government vide their letter dated 21.01.2015 also submitted a project (37 different projects) costing Rs. 28,881 Crores with a rural share of Rs. 23,849 Crore and Urban share of Rs. 5032 Crore for which State has been replied by this Ministry that the requisite financial assistance is not feasible from the existing allocation of funds under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP). It has been advised that the State may consider allocation of more funds from its own plan resources to the rural drinking water supply sector using the enhanced devolution of funds under the 14th Finance Commission. In addition, state may seek financial assistance in a phased manner from different multilateral lending agencies. For this, the state Government has been requested to forward revised project proposals to this Ministry alongwith debt sustainability certificate from State Finance Department.